

From: St(00E9)phane Moureau
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/18/01 10:27am
Subject: Microsoft Advantages

Dear Madam,
Dear Sir,

First forgive my bad english and thank you for giving us a chance to comment.

I hope you'll not forgot the advantages that Microsoft has already taken from such unfair practices in such competitive markets during all those years.

All the money MS has accumulated while they were imposing their products without any ethic.

All the companies MS has been able to buy with that money.

All the MS rivals, and some were producing better products, technology break-through, that have gone to bankruptcy because they were unable to compete with such a giant able to spend money on huge advertisement campaigns, huge teams of developers to 'copy' similar products.

You must review history, it's always the same process that MS is following.

A "new technology/standard" appears, MS quickly follow the trend and release a version, full of problems, bugs, and some tiny extensions, making both (their and original one) incompatible, and by benefiting from their market dominance, illegally acquired, and delayed communication to external developers, imposing MS copy of that technology: html, javascript, C#/J# <- java, M\$ Server/asp <- php/mysql, Windows <- Mac OS, XP <- OSX,...

Even a MS high-level manager was surprised to sell a product with so many bugs, I don't remember the exact sentence but that's the idea, that appeared in the press about a quickly released Windows version.

Why people are using those bad MS version then?

Just because most are simple users, which are not computer specialists, and they use what they receive "as-is" and a great percentage are using Windows and all the features that MS is imposing internally. And also because distributors were obliged to do so.

How many users are aware of what's going on behind the scene?

How many users are able to switch to another, often better, technology?

Even some professionals are unable because MS has intentionally made those changes almost impossible.

Quickly those who are aware, computer technicians, etc... are too obliged to follow because most users are using MS 'incompatible' versions.

Those last years press is full of events showing how aggressive, unfair, illegal practices MS has used intentionally at all possible levels, some even by illegally spying its customers.

Even if strong rules against MS might lead to short-term negative consequences (job loses, etc), on the long run all the industry and the consumers will benefit from a fair competition.

But not forgetting all the advantages that MS has unfairly acquired during all those years is essential, perhaps mandatory !
Mr Bill Gates seems pleased by the current agreements probably for that reason.

They will not truly affect MS, the 'powerful monster' is alive and running and it will not be too much affected by them.

All that accumulated money allows now MS to buy any competitors (e.g. hotmail), to artificially support competitors to avoid antitrust accusations (e.g. Apple), to make huge investments to reproduce internally any new standard, to diversify its activities (e.g. Xbox) and repeat the same unfair suffocating tactics.

All the advantages obtained in such fast markets are essential and can make a huge difference between live and death for a concurrent company.

A lot of people in Europe are hoping that the judgment will really mark the end for such unfair practices but also, and mainly, that it will redistribute/compensate the advantages MS has taken during all those years from other competitors.

Ineffective judgments and inadequate rules would be badly perceived by people from other countries in those troubled times that USA encounters now. USA is taken as a model for a lot of people, its attitude must be irreproachable.

But I'm confident that fair and really effective solutions will be found, providing that email address to send our comments is a good proof.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

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